United Nations A/C.2/61/SR.3

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
27 October 2006

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 2 October 2006, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Intelmann ..... (Estonia)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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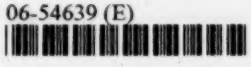

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Hachani** (Tunisia) said that there was no shortage of key instruments to guide the international community in the urgent task of implementing a global partnership for development. The full implementation of General Assembly resolution 60/265, entitled "Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals", would be crucial to building that partnership. The resolution, adopted following difficult negotiations, and a potentially decisive step in the process of attaining development objectives, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, called for balancing political and security concerns with economic and social challenges. As poverty and insecurity were clearly the root causes of instability and tension, peace and development must be pursued in tandem.

2. In that connection, it was also imperative to provide the Economic and Social Council with the additional resources it required to enable it to carry out its mandates, including the new ones entrusted to it in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1). To that end, his delegation hoped that the negotiations on strengthening the Council would resume and be completed soon so that the Council would be in a position to take the wishes of the General Assembly into account when planning its future activities.

3. A number of prerequisites must be met in order to create a genuine global partnership for development. For example, the trade negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) should resume and be guided by the need for a more balanced and open multilateral trading system. In that connection, he underscored the commitment in the World Summit Outcome to an effective and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and to the development dimensions of the Doha Work Programme.

4. Assistance should be given to debtor developing countries to enable them to achieve manageable and sustainable levels of debt, for example, by converting some of their debt into development projects. The international community was in a position to identify debt alleviation mechanisms that would not undermine the stability of international financial institutions or the financial capacity of the developed countries.

5. An increase in ODA was another prerequisite for a true global partnership for development. ODA financed economic and human development as well as macroeconomic and structural reforms that were critical for growth, particularly in the poorest developing countries.

6. A final prerequisite was support for good governance at the national and international levels alike. The developing countries should be given a greater voice in elaborating, managing and monitoring major economic decisions. A selective approach to those actions would be counterproductive.

7. His delegation considered the implementation of a global partnership for development to be the major focus of the current session of the General Assembly and the Second Committee. The results of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the High-level Meeting on the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 were therefore of particular importance to both the General Assembly and the Committee. African countries required increased and more sustained assistance in respect of the issues dealt with at those recent meetings.

8. Given their considerable degree of integration in commercial and financial markets, middle-income countries continued to face special needs and require support from the international community. It was therefore important to implement the relevant provisions of the World Summit Outcome. His delegation welcomed the fact that the concerns of middle-income countries had been discussed at the 2006 Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

9. It was also essential to address the digital divide, which was the most endemic expression of poverty. In that connection, implementation of the outputs of the World Summit on the Information Society — the second phase of which had been held in Tunis in November 2005 — should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences. His delegation was pleased that

the Economic and Social Council had already begun to address the issue with the assistance of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. He also welcomed the recent launch by the Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development, which would enable all stakeholders to participate in implementing the outputs of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society.

10. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/209, had proclaimed 20 December of each year International Human Solidarity Day. He urged delegations to participate actively in its first official observance, and which he hoped would be organized in close coordination with the Second Committee.

11. **Mr. Edrees** (Egypt) said that constructive cooperation between developing and developed countries was required at the current session of the General Assembly in order to restore confidence in North-South relations and ensure the balanced implementation of the development commitments of the World Summit Outcome. General Assembly resolution 60/265 did not meet the aspirations of the developing countries in that regard. It was therefore necessary to set in motion new mechanisms to follow up the commitments undertaken in the outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences; increase the policy space available to developing countries to balance their national policies with their international commitments; and promote the role of the United Nations in various development spheres, particularly in international financial institutions.

12. Effective efforts were also needed to reach an agreement as soon as possible on the draft resolution to strengthen the role of the Economic and Social Council, with a view to increasing the resources available to the Council and strengthening its capacity to carry out its mandates, including its new mandates, as efficiently as possible.

13. The Secretary-General's report on system-wide coherence should include proposals to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in the field of development. The proposals should confirm the importance of continuity and predictability in financing the system's funds and programmes at the national level, with a view to meeting the priorities of recipient countries and with due respect for the principle of national ownership. Proposals on environmental issues should not be confined to the operational activities of the United Nations system; rather, they should envision ways of integrating national, regional and international initiatives to achieve sustainable development and preserve natural resources for future generations.

14. The need to support the development efforts of middle-income countries through technical assistance and new bilateral, regional and international partnerships had gained increasing significance in the light of the emphasis placed by the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development on the importance of financial resources as the primary factor in effective partnerships for development. As a middle-income country, Egypt attached particular importance to the commitment by developed countries to allocate 0.7 per cent of GNP to ODA, and to the development mandate of the Doha Round. Increasing the voice and participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions and enhancing the access of middle-income countries to soft loans and credit facilities from international and regional financial institutions would also be crucial.

15. As a developing country at the crossroads between East and West, his country attached considerable importance to issues relating to international migration and development. It had been an active participant in the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and looked forward to the adoption of practical measures that addressed the rights of migrants, facilitated remittance transfers and reduced their cost and dealt with the negative consequences of the brain drain in developing countries. The establishment of a new consultative forum on migration and development would be a positive step. Such a forum should complement, and not be a substitute for activities of the United Nations system in the field of migration and development.

16. At the recent High-level Meeting on the Least Developed Countries, Egypt had underscored its commitment to supporting and assisting those countries at the bilateral, regional and international levels and the importance of enhancing efforts to enable them to achieve sustainable development through their rapid integration into the world economy.

17. His delegation was concerned at the suspension of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which jeopardized the aspirations of the developing

countries for a more just multilateral trading system and undermined their right to development. The collective efforts of all parties were essential in order to address the controversial issues of agricultural subsidies, market access for non-agricultural commodities, and preferential treatment.

18. He stressed the importance of providing sufficient international development assistance to alleviate the suffering of the people of Africa. Such assistance should be delivered through African channels, in particular through the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). His country was a NEPAD coordinator for the agriculture and market access sectors.

19. Although his delegation welcomed the many initiatives introduced to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries, it believed that additional resources were needed and that more attention should be directed to the debt problems of middle-income countries.

20. The three components of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection, should be treated as mutually reinforcing pillars. His country continued to make every effort to ensure environmental protection and preservation within the framework of its obligations under the relevant international agreements, in particular those pertaining to climate change, Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. Approaches that placed narrow self-interest ahead of the common good, which had surfaced in connection with the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, were irresponsible and jeopardized the future of mankind.

21. His delegation urged the international community to continue to address the issue of desertification, which undermined the development potential of the developing world. Efforts should also be directed at projects to develop new and renewable energy resources in developing countries, as such projects helped preserve the environment.

22. With reference to agenda item 40, permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, he expressed his delegation's deep concern regarding the continued deterioration of the economic, social and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation and the policies of closure.

23. His delegation looked forward to enhanced cooperation between developed countries and developing countries, and among developing countries, on matters relating to information and communication technology in order to promote capacity-building in new technologies and narrow the digital divide through transfers of new technology. Additional regional and international meetings with development partners and stakeholders should be convened to that end.

24. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that while the theme of the general debate for the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, "Implementing a global partnership for development", had doubtless been inspired by a growing recognition of the inevitable need for collaborative effort in a globalized world, there had been a manifest lack of progress in implementing an effective global partnership for development. Inequality remained entrenched at all levels and in all regions, posing a significant threat to global prospects for peace and prosperity. Although it was true that the performance of developing countries as a group, and of some developing countries in particular, had shown improvement, not only did current conditions exhibit great volatility and unevenness, but inequality continued to increase even in countries and regions with relatively high levels of growth.

25. A global partnership for development was thus more necessary than ever. Success in forging such a partnership was of particular concern to the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, which remained the most inequitable region in the world, despite consistent advances in recent years. Figures from the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) indicated that some 222 million people in the region were living in poverty, 90 per cent of them in middle-income countries. The World Bank *Global Monitoring Report 2005* pointed up the important role that development aid played in such countries in supporting efforts to tackle poverty, as well as catalysing reforms and helping to counter negative shocks.

26. The recent High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had highlighted the need for comprehensive treatment of migration issues. The Rio Group supported the creation of a global forum, as proposed by the Secretary-General, as a means of continuing the debate begun during the High-level Dialogue and ensuring sustained attention to and holistic treatment of migration by the Governments of the world. The special role of remittances — which should not be linked to official development assistance — also deserved particular attention from the international community, as did the "brain drain".

27. Trade could be a positive and dynamic force for promoting development and reducing poverty, thereby contributing to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The successful conclusion of the Doha Round could generate additional resources for development. The Rio Group believed that the developed countries bore a special responsibility to ensure its success and urged those countries to honour their commitments to implement agreed reforms and to adopt a constructive approach that would spur progress in eliminating the grave imbalances and injustices of the international trading system.

28. The Rio Group was convinced that greater efforts must be made to overcome the problems impeding the achievement of a true global partnership for development. The ever-widening gap between promises and action must be addressed in order to prevent countries and regions from slipping further behind in their quest to attain the Millennium Development Goals. Leaders of the Rio Group countries had put forward various proposals in that regard, including the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative (Brazil, Chile and other countries), the New Global Human Order (Guyana) and the International Humanitarian Fund (Venezuela). The Rio Group strongly supported the identification, promotion and implementation of innovative sources of financing for development, such as the recently launched International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID), created in the context of the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative. UNITAID would provide financial resources for the acquisition of drugs to treat the three most serious diseases affecting people in developing countries: HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

29. The Rio Group countries firmly believed that each country bore primary responsibility for its own development, but national efforts would be of little avail without an enabling international economic environment that was more "development-friendly". For that reason, the reform of the international financial architecture was of paramount importance. While the proposed package of International Monetary Fund reforms was welcome, it did not adequately address the issue of underrepresentation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions.

30. **Mr. Kodera** (Japan) said that many of the commitments set out in the 2005 World Summit Outcome had yet to be fulfilled and stressed the importance of completing that unfinished business, particularly with regard to the Millennium Development Goals and United Nations system reform. He urged the Committee to accelerate its discussion on those two challenges.

31. Human security was a key to reforming the United Nations system in order to enable it to respond more effectively to the needs of people in developing countries. The objective of human security was to protect individuals from various threats, strengthen their capacity to cope with adversity by themselves, and create an enabling environment in which they could demonstrate that increased capacity. He invited interested Member States to join his delegation in considering the implications of human security for the items on the Committee's agenda.

32. One area on which his delegation planned to focus in the coming months was water and sanitation. The international community had pledged to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015. Although limited success had been achieved with respect to water, progress with respect to sanitation was faltering. As the issue of water and sanitation underpinned poverty reduction, child survival, disease control, education, and gender equality — in other words, virtually all the Millennium Development Goals, provision of sanitation would be an effective starting point for socio-economic development. His delegation and other interested delegations planned to introduce a draft resolution in support of the recommendation by the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation earlier in 2006 that the United Nations should declare an "International Year of Sanitation" to help raise awareness and mobilize human and financial resources.

33. While acknowledging the major intellectual contributions the United Nations University (UNU) had made to the international community in the 30 years since its establishment, he said that the time was ripe for a review of the University's role and an external evaluation of its output and contributions. To enhance its function and status, UNU must have a clear grasp of the expectations other United Nations bodies had of it, strive to engage in more practical and timely research, better utilize the outcomes of that research and improve its public relations activities. His delegation hoped that the University would seize the opportunity for renewal that the resolution to be adopted at the current session of the General Assembly would offer.

34. **Mr. Cho** Hyun (Republic of Korea) said that, despite recent increases and the timetables established by many developed countries for meeting ODA targets, the projected level of ODA over the coming five years would still fall short of developing countries' requirements. The situation called for increased support and faithful delivery.

35. His Government had been honouring its pledges. It would double its ODA by 2009 and triple it by 2015. As part of that action, it would substantially increase its development assistance to Africa under its Initiative for Africa's Development. While ODA remained an essential component of development assistance, innovative sources of financing, such as air-ticket solidarity, ought to be explored. Hence the recent launch of UNITAID was to be welcomed; his Government was adopting legislation to enable it to make financial contributions to the Facility. Nevertheless, such innovative programmes should be regarded as a supplement, not a substitute, for ODA.

36. Development aid alone would not ensure long-term sustainable development. Debt relief and trade were also vital to development. Trade was of overriding importance, since its promotion offered larger and more permanent benefits to developing countries in terms of self-reliance. The early resumption and completion of the Doha Development Round of negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) deserved strong support, as the round was aimed at creating a freer multilateral trading system while paying special attention to the needs of developing countries. In order to restart the negotiations, new ideas must be considered and every party, especially the key players, would need to compromise.

37. His Government supported Aid for Trade and would expand duty-free and quota-free access to his country's markets for the exports of the least developed countries. It would also increase its contribution to the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and expand its training programmes covering WTO rules and regulations. Sustainable development would not be possible until the least developed countries were fully integrated into the global economy. In that connection, the High-level Meeting on the Least Developed Countries had provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen the global partnership for the development of the least developed countries, few of which would meet the targets of the Programme of Action if current trends persisted. Countries must therefore redouble their efforts to honour their respective commitments under the Programme; closer cooperation between the least developed countries and their development partners was imperative.

38. Effective implementation of the Doha Development Agenda would not be possible unless the crucial role played by women in all social and economic areas was fully recognized. The empowerment of women and the mainstreaming of gender perspective into policymaking and policy implementation should therefore be a central feature of measures to bring about social progress and economic development. He called for closer cooperation among States with a view to realizing the development potential of international migration was a multidimensional, worldwide phenomenon reflecting many aspects of globalization. Comprehensive and coherent migration policies that took into account the specific situation of each country were needed to maximize the benefits of migration and contain the social disruption it caused. The Global Migration Group should foster coordination, cooperation and coherence among international organizations working in the field of migration and development.

39. Developing countries must play a greater role in reforming the governance structure of international financial institutions. The ad hoc increase in the quotas of the four most underrepresented economies at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was a step in the right direction, but many countries' quotas must still be readjusted to reflect their changing economic weight.

To that end, a new quota formula should be established on a consensual basis. Similar steps should be taken at the World Bank.

40. Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/61/258), he stressed the need to accelerate efforts to ensure sustainable development, which was a key factor in achieving other Millennium Development Goals such as the eradication of poverty. It was therefore to be hoped that the report of the United Nations High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment would propose specific schemes and strategies, and that the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development would serve as a platform for consolidated policy options paving the way for substantial improvements in sustainable development approaches. It would also be desirable for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to produce substantive results and call for prompt and effective action. It was to be hoped that the Committee would help to broaden the consensus and to draw up action plans for the implementation of commitments undertaken at the 2005 World Summit.

41. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that the collapse of the Doha Round of trade negotiations had been a huge shock for developing countries. A wide range of other adverse trends might also cast a shadow over future growth prospects for the world economy and were likely to affect least developed countries disproportionately. The global economic environment was not conducive to meeting the ambitious goals set at the 2005 World Summit, but a number of measures might break the deadlock.

42. First, it was necessary to reverse the heavy bias of the current trading system against the developing countries and to resume the Doha negotiations immediately. Duty-free and quota-free access to the industrialized countries' markets for the exports of the least developed countries should be granted even before agreement was reached on other issues.

43. Secondly, the total foreign exchange reserves held by the developing countries was nearly 15 times larger than the total development assistance they received. While those reserves sat idle and yielded very low interest, developing countries were often forced to borrow at very high interest rates in order to finance their development. That situation was unfair; the United Nations must lead an international drive to reform the global reserve system and to make arrangements for the least developed countries to borrow at zero interest rates.

44. Thirdly, although the multilateral debt reduction achieved through the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) was welcome, the latter should be extended to all the least developed countries and all their outstanding debts must be written off immediately. Grant-based development assistance would avert the recurrence of unsustainable debts.

45. Fourthly, since ODA to the least developed countries was decreasing in real terms, developed countries must fulfil their commitment of giving 0.7 per cent of their GNP as ODA to developing countries and 0.2 per cent to the least developed countries. Aid should be delivered more efficiently and predictably without political conditionality. The distribution of ODA should be rational and equitable among the recipient countries and its flow should be aligned with countries' own development strategies. The full implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was also important.

46. Fifthly, foreign direct investment (FDI) in the least developed countries should be channelled into productive investment that would generate employment and contribute to product diversification. It might also help to bridge the widening divide between the infrastructure of the least developed and developing countries and that of member States of the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation. Sixthly, it was necessary to step up efforts to identify and eliminate the key supply-side constraints preventing the private sectors of the least developed countries from becoming globally competitive. It was time that the international community took steps to fully activate Aid for Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, not only in order to remove capacity constraints, but also to address the problems of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers restricting the least developed countries' exports to developed countries.

47. Seventhly, although the international community should assist developing countries to narrow the enormous gap between the supply and demand for microcredit, a viable alternative to traditional sources of financing to which the poor often had no access. Eighthly, the decision-making process of the international financial institutions must be democratized. While the ad hoc increase in the quotas for four countries was welcome, the current package of reforms was not adequate to address the special circumstances of low-income countries. A substantial increase in basic votes was necessary and the new quota formula should be weighted in favour of the least developed countries, whose voices must be heard in the Bretton Woods institutions.

48. Ninthly, particular attention should be devoted to the threat of national disasters which often undermined development efforts. Reducing the risk of disasters was a global concern, as their impact in one region adversely affected others. The United Nations must gear its efforts to introducing weather insurance and weather derivatives in order to manage the risks of natural disasters. Lastly, the free movement of service providers might well exceed the benefits of completely liberalized trade in goods. Expeditious measures to liberalize the market for service providers under Mode 4 would also make it easier to tackle the challenges of the smuggling and trafficking in persons. Despite world leaders' promises to lift the most indigent segment of society out of the poverty trap, very poor people still did not benefit directly from migration. It was therefore to be hoped that the proposed platform for migration would focus primarily on the most critical aspects of the issue.

49. An effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism at the United Nations was crucial for reaching the time-bound goals set at the Millennium Summit. The Committee should play a key role in that regard.

50. **Mr. Chandrappan** (India), noting the findings of the report on the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2006 and of the World Economic and Social Survey 2006, said that the mobilization of additional financial resources to assist developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals was still a major challenge, while the impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations was a cause for concern. Only a small fraction of the nominal increase in ODA in 2005 had actually represented a flow of additional finance to the neediest countries. The Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved unless the target of setting aside 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA was met by 2015. Innovative financing, deeper debt relief and enhanced market access were also required. His Government supported efforts to help low-income countries, including those in Africa, where the burden of debt was preventing them from reaching the Millennium Development Goals. As the proposals for innovative sources of financing matured, it would be vital to strengthen existing mechanisms for tracking ODA flows to make them more robust and efficient. It would also be necessary to consider establishing new mechanisms to monitor, review and follow up the fulfilment of all commitments in line with General Assembly resolution 60/265 on Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

51. Trade could stimulate growth. For that reason, the realization of the objectives of the Doha Development Agenda, the July Framework Agreement and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration was imperative. At the same time, permission for developing countries to commit themselves to making proportionately lower overall tariff reductions and the introduction of operable and effective development instruments for the Special Products and the Special Safeguard Mechanism were essential in order to ensure to ensure food security and the rural development needs of those countries. If the developed countries did not eliminate trade-distorting domestic support and export subsidies for agricultural products and if the developing countries did not liberalize imports of non-agricultural goods, domestic demand would be constrained and industrial recession would ensue. The overarching principle of special and differential treatment therefore remained a categorical imperative. Considerable political will would have to be demonstrated if the negotiations were to be saved.

52. Economic growth and its collapse had tended to occur in many countries at the same time. It was unlikely that domestic factors alone could explain such a pattern. Poverty and conflicts were not simply a legacy of the colonial past, but epiphenomena of the policies followed by the international financial institutions. It was no coincidence that several countries had rejected the prescriptions of the Bretton Woods institutions. Governance at the international

level was as important as governance at the domestic level. The Bretton Woods institutions must not depart from their mission of freeing the world from poverty; their policies must remain development-oriented. Addressing the democratic deficit in the governance structure of those institutions was therefore a necessity. The United Nations should encourage further steps to initiate the second stage of quota reform at the International Monetary Fund, which would lead to an increase in the quota for all underrepresented countries.

53. The proposal concerning the intensification of the global development partnership with Africa was welcome. His Government, which had an extensive bilateral programme of economic and technological cooperation with Africa, supported the idea of making greater efforts through the United Nations system to assist the endeavours of African countries and to address the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries.

54. Environmental protection remained a major challenge for developing countries and, for that reason, practical steps were needed to provide additional resources and ensure the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms to developing countries.

55. The Committee's deliberations should make it possible to identify areas of cooperative action promoting the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda in 2006.

56. **Mr. Mota Sardenberg** (Brazil) said that the Committee should focus special attention on migration, taking a comprehensive approach that covered not only the economic, political and social implications of the issue but also its human rights dimension. No country could be exempt from responsibility before the international community for violations of migrants' human rights. His delegation looked forward to the creation of the global consultative forum on migration and development proposed by the Secretary-General as a means of promoting more organized international discussion on the issue.

57. Brazil had endorsed the Millennium Declaration, not as a vague statement of intentions but as a concrete covenant of mutual support leading to sustainable and equitable growth and poverty alleviation. The outlook for achievement of most of the Millennium Development Goals was not bright, however and would not improve until the tripartite partnership of developing countries, developed countries and international financial institutions, established at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, became fully effective. The preparatory discussions for the follow-up international conference on financing for development would afford an opportunity to evaluate and reinforce the tripartite arrangement. In his delegation's opinion, responsibility for implementation of the Monterrey Consensus had been unevenly divided among Member States and the international financial institutions. The developing countries had been doing their utmost in order to attract investment and fuel growth, particularly by taking harsh measures to achieve economic stability; the international financial institutions must now strengthen their role in the partnership. Some encouraging progress had occurred with regard to country focus and ownership, results-oriented operations, transparency and accountability, but much remained to be done to ensure better coherence and coordination in the activities of those institutions.

58. The developed countries, too, had fallen short of the Monterrey vision. In particular, they had failed to step up their efforts in three policy areas: prevention of global macroeconomic volatility, trade and aid. The fiscal, monetary and financial policies of developed countries should foster robust growth in the world economy, but for that to occur there must be adequate coordination of macroeconomic policies with other developed countries, action to ensure the soundness of their financial systems and creation of a climate conducive to global economic growth.

59. The removal of trade barriers to exports from developing countries was an integral element in the fight against poverty. As set forth in the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, market access was essential for both low- and middle-income countries. The elimination or reduction of international trade distortions and the establishment of a truly multilateral rules-based trading system, particularly for agricultural products, would provide a substantial boost to the development of the agricultural sector in developing countries, which would, in turn, help raise the living standards of their populations, a large segment of which were dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. In that connection, Brazil was deeply concerned over the impasse that had

led to the suspension of the Doha Round of trade negotiations and called on the key players in those negotiations to agree to undertake substantial cuts in the domestic support measures applied to their agricultural production, thus removing the main stumbling block for resumption of the talks.

60. Progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals would be accelerated when the donor community translated its commitments into actual outlays, thus moving closer to the official development assistance target set in the Monterrey Consensus. His delegation called on the developed countries to take decisive and immediate action to increase aid flows. At the same time, aid modalities should be adjusted to make more effective use of resources. That could be accomplished through more coordinated and transparent dialogue among donors, who often acted in isolation thus missing opportunities for synergy in projects involving the same recipient country. Moreover, aid had to be provided in modalities and amounts that were consistent with the absorptive capacity of recipient countries.

61. As aid flows and debt sustainability were closely linked, debt cancellation as envisaged under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative should not affect the stability and predictability of ODA flows, particularly those aimed at financing recurrent expenses. The new Multilateral Debt Reduction Initiative should supplement current flows and refrain from imposing conditionalities other than those already included in the HIPC Initiative.

62. Innovative financing modalities were needed to meet the need for increased and more stable and predictable aid. Brazil had been actively pursuing the development of such modalities at the national level, starting with the launching of its Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative in January 2004. The time had come for the international donor community to join in the effort to identify operationally and financially viable instruments to complement existing aid flows. A first step in that direction had been the launching of the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID). Thus far, 18 countries had joined in that innovative, ambitious initiative, which would help developing countries to obtain urgently needed diagnostic kits and drugs at affordable prices. His delegation urged other partners to do likewise.

63. Brazil had high expectations for the discussions on improving the United Nations operational system for development, which would lead to enhanced coordination among agencies, particularly at country level. His delegation was committed to contributing constructively to the Committee's discussions on that issue; it was especially interested in the promotion of South-South cooperation as a major strategy for development. The wide array of issues on the Committee's agenda reflected multiple angles of a single, basic goal: sustainable development and its three indivisible and mutually reinforcing pillars, economic development, social development and environmental development. He invited other delegations to bear that in mind as a backdrop to the Committee's discussions.

64. **Mr. Chabar** (Morocco) noted that the Committee's deliberations were taking place in the wake of three important international events. The first had been the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, at which Member States had expressed broad support for the Secretary-General's proposal to create a global consultative forum for ongoing discussion of the issue. The Committee should take concrete action, in its discussion of agenda item 55 (b), "International migration and development", to make that proposal a reality.

65. The second international gathering had been the High-level Meeting on the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, which had adopted the Cotonou Ministerial Declaration, reaffirming support for the Programme of Action, and the Cotonou Strategy. The international community, especially the developed countries, had a responsibility to promote cooperation with the least developed countries to assist them in achieving their development objectives and priorities. His country was committed to strengthening its relations with the least developed countries, particularly those in Africa, through cooperation projects aimed at furthering human development and through mechanisms for promoting trade and investment. Morocco was also committed to ensuring duty- and quota-free market access for exports from African LDCs.

66. The third event had been the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund,

at which several important decisions had been taken, notably concerning a package of reforms aimed at ensuring better representation of countries of the South in those institutions. A fourth event which bore mentioning was the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, which, regrettably, had been suspended. The failure to reach agreement raised the spectre of escalating protectionism, which would undoubtedly have a disproportionate impact on exports of developing countries. All countries had a duty to redouble their efforts to settle their differences and resume the negotiations.

67. United Nations reform would continue to be discussed during the current session of the General Assembly. Of particular interest to the Second Committee would be the coherence of United Nations activities with regard to the environment, development and humanitarian assistance. His delegation looked forward to receiving the report of the panel established by the Secretary-General to examine that matter. While the reform process would afford an opportunity to adapt the activities of United Nations agencies to the needs and priorities of countries, it should not result in any weakening of the mandate of some agencies, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). A second issue of concern to the Committee would be the development of a sound institutional framework for the environmental activities of the United Nations. Morocco supported the French proposal to transform the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) into a United Nations Environment Organization as a means of facilitating joint action to address environmental challenges.

68. Innovative financing for development mechanisms should continue to be sought. His delegation welcomed the launching of UNITAID, which would doubtless save many lives, especially in Africa, the region most affected by disease and poverty. His delegation also welcomed the offer by Qatar to host the follow-up international conference on financing for development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and encouraged Member States to come to an agreement on the arrangements for the conference.

69. **Mr. Rapota** (Eurasian Economic Community) said that the Eurasian Economic Community had been in existence for six years. In 2006 it had merged with the Central Asian Cooperation Organization and had admitted the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Eurasian Development Bank had been set up as an instrument for financing joint projects. The main macroeconomic indicators had improved in most of the Community's member States and trade in goods between members had doubled in 2005 to US$ 54 billion.

70. The Community was striving to improve the legal basis for cooperation. Partnerships had been set up with international organizations and other regional organizations, and multilateral projects in key sectors of the economy were being carried out. A free-trade regime without exemptions and limitations was in operation throughout the Community. A customs union had been set up between three member States: Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Other countries would join the customs union when they were ready to do so. The long-term goal was to establish an economic and monetary union.

71. Eighty-seven per cent of the Community's foreign trade turnover came from trade with third countries. As a result, high priority was being given to devising a common foreign trade policy at a conference to be convened jointly by the Community and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Moscow in October 2006. Preparations were being made for the Community's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Agreements signed within the Community already took account of WTO rules and standards. His organization fully supported the decisions of the 2005 World Summit and other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly designed to facilitate the accession of countries with economies in transition to WTO. Its members were fully prepared to accept commitments consonant with their level of development and the structure of their economies and comparable to the obligations assumed by other States members of WTO.

72. The States members of the Community were traditional suppliers of energy to many European and Asian countries. The Community was implementing some important investment projects with a view to creating a common electrical energy market and was constructing hydroelectric plants in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia was of great assistance in that respect.

73. The Community was addressing a number of complex environmental problems in close cooperation

with the United Nations Development Programme. It supported initiatives by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe aimed at developing environmentally clean coal-burning technologies and reducing the harmful impact of energy production on the environment and hoped that that the Commission would help it to find solutions to several of the ecological problems faced by Central Asian countries, including the rehabilitation of uranium tailing dumps.

74. The Community had started to draw up a programme for the establishment of a common transport area in order to facilitate the movement of goods and in that connection it intended to work closely with the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Road Transport Union (IRU). A common transport area would raise trade and economic cooperation between the Community's members to a qualitatively new level and would lend powerful momentum to further integration with other Eurasian countries. The building of a high-speed railway link for container transport on the routes from Urumqi to Brest and Moscow would increase the potential for transit traffic through the Community's member States. It was to be hoped that a number of proposals which the Community had submitted to the United Nations in its report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action would be reflected in the Organization's activities in the region.

75. The Community had adopted a package of agreements in the social sphere and on migration with the aim of reducing poverty, generating employment and achieving sustainable development. It had put forward some proposals regarding the signature of a memorandum of understanding with the Economic Commission for Europe along the lines of that which it had signed with the United Nations Development Programme on the strengthening of institutional cooperation. He was pleased to note that the United Nations was seriously studying the situation in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had outlined ways of enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations activities in that region; however, key areas of such activities should be congruent with the Community's priorities in the fields of energy, water management, the environment, transport and trade.

76. Given that external debt was an increasingly acute problem for many Central Asian countries, new loans should be provided on preferential terms and old debts should be rescheduled.

77. The Community was ready not only to strengthen its contacts with all the main bodies of the United Nations system in the areas he had already mentioned, but also to seek new forms of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/61/SR.4

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
24 October 2006

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 3 October 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Intelmann ..... (Estonia)
later: Mr. Barry (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Senegal)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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06-55170 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (China) said that development called for global stability, which could only be achieved through mutually beneficial partnership, and should be pursued through strategies linked to the Millennium Development Goals. The international community, and especially the developed countries, should help the developing countries to make full use of the opportunities offered by globalization by providing practical support in priority areas, increasing development aid, extending debt relief, promoting international trade, technology transfer and investment, and assisting them to build capacity for development and to participate in world trade.

2. For globalization to succeed, the multilateral trading system must be fair, open and non-discriminatory. The suspension of the Doha Round was not in anyone's interest. The major developed countries should take the lead in restarting them. To enable the developing countries to reap the benefit of their comparative advantages, World Trade Organization members should strive to remove trade barriers, establish a fair and competitive trading system, handle trade disputes appropriately and avoid politicizing trade issues. The least developed countries should be given preferential treatment for their exports.

3. Financial security was the bedrock of stable development. Full use should be made of steady economic growth in the world to reform and improve the world financial system. His delegation welcomed the Resolution on Quota and Voice Reform recently adopted by the International Monetary Fund. It hoped the second-stage reform would be implemented soon, and would focus on increasing the basic votes significantly and increasing the representation of the developing and low-income countries.

4. Energy security had become a hidden threat for world economic development. International cooperation was needed to expand sources of energy, maintain energy market stability, increase the efficiency of energy use through advanced technology, and reduce negative impacts on the environment. Funds and technologies should be transferred to the developing countries to boost their efforts to protect the environment while achieving sustainable development.

5. The United Nations should play a leading role in development by building an effective framework for evaluating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, improving the coordination of world development policies and of monetary, financial and trade mechanisms, and creating an enabling international environment for developing countries. His country supported efforts to increase investment and secure resources for development, and to reform the United Nations development agencies.

6. China's economic development had been rapid, and it had been able to increase its support to the developing countries. Following the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, a summit and ministerial conference would be held in Beijing in November 2006, and was expected to launch new debt relief and tariff exemptions for African countries, together with increased bilateral aid and additional medical and human resources. China would continue to play a strong role, within the framework of South-South cooperation, in promoting the common development of the developing countries.

7. As the largest developing country in the world, China still faced many difficulties, such as widespread poverty, unbalanced development and huge environmental pressures. It was now implementing its eleventh five-year plan, which stressed economic and social development and the steady improvement of living standards. It would continue to increase the efficiency of energy use and of resources in general, while protecting the environment and coordinating economic development with population, resource and environmental considerations.

8. **Mr. Asare** (Ghana), noting that ODA still fell far short of the $150 billion thought necessary for developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, pointed out that it was trade, not debt relief, that spurred development. That made it the more regrettable that the negotiations on the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organization had suddenly been suspended in July 2006. Without a timely and satisfactory outcome to the Doha Development Agenda, developing countries, especially in Africa, would be unable to achieve the economic growth necessary to meet the Millennium Development Goals. His delegation called for the immediate resumption of the negotiations. To benefit fully from a development-oriented global trading system, developing countries needed greater access to the

markets of developed countries, together with financial assistance to remove supply-side constraints.

9. Migration was an aspect of underdevelopment. People would continue to search for better opportunities outside their own countries as long as social and economic disparities, rising unemployment and armed conflict persisted at home. Following the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, Ghana strongly endorsed the call for further international dialogue to maximize the gains from migration and reduce its negative effects through policy coherence and harmonization.

10. In conclusion, his country believed in good governance as a crucial factor in sustainable development and had been working tirelessly to achieve it.

11. **Mr. Amin-Mansour** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that global economic imbalances continued to pose risks to the world economic outlook. Poorer countries had less diversified economies and export structures, and were therefore more vulnerable to shocks in international financial markets. In most parts of the world, trade liberalization had brought an expansion of export volumes, but not higher economic growth. Encouraging greater economic and export diversification required appropriate domestic policies and a favourable trading environment for developing countries. Improved trading opportunities for developing countries should involve improved market access for their agricultural and manufacturing exports. Developing countries also required more space to adopt policies to build their supply capacity and large-scale investments in the development of infrastructure. Lastly, human development and a better educated population were prerequisites for sustained economic growth.

12. The recent Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana, had condemned unilateral coercive economic measures, which continued to pose clear threats to international trade and to hinder the development process at the national, regional and international levels. The suspension of the Doha Development Round negotiations continued to depress agricultural production, and thus the income of many people, particularly farmers in developing countries.

13. According to recent estimates, the number of people in the world without enough food to meet their basic needs was increasing. Although the hardest hit regions — sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia — had made progress in recent years, those advances had not kept pace with those of the early 1990s. Although universal primary education was reported to be closer to reality, sub-Saharan Africa lagged behind. There continued to be an educational gender gap, and rural children were less likely than urban children to attend school. Although more children were surviving their first year of life, maternal mortality remained high where most deaths occurred. Although more people were receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS, and prevention efforts were proving successful in some places, deaths and new infections continued to increase. Rapid deforestation continued, although the net loss of forest area was slowing. Energy use had become more efficient in most regions, but two and a half years after the adoption of policies and possible actions in the Commission on Sustainable Development, half the developing country populations lacked basic sanitation. Under such circumstances, the world was unlikely to reach its sanitation-related targets by 2015.

14. In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and reduce the significant gap in living standards between the developing and developed countries, the global partnership for development must be strengthened. The successful conclusion of the GEF-4 replenishment during the recent Third Assembly of the Global Environment Facility had been another turning point in GEF activities. However, the financial resources committed were far from sufficient. Member States must accelerate their follow-up to negotiations on United Nations reform, system-wide coherence, mandate review and environmental activities in order to ensure that all United Nations entities worked in a more coherent and effective manner.

15. Natural disasters were increasing in frequency and severity, and collective measures to mitigate their impact required the further attention of the international community. The recently held High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development could be regarded as another positive step for United Nations efforts to address the developmental aspects of international migration. His delegation hoped that by following up on the issue, all countries involved would be able to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative consequences of migration.

16. Lastly, the recently held High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 had provided another opportunity for the international community to review its successes and failures of the past five years and accelerate its efforts to fully implement the Programme of Action before 2010. Given the vulnerabilities of the least developed countries, greater international action was required to support their efforts to achieve sustained economic growth.

17. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that according to the *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2006*, the world economy had been strong at the beginning of 2006 and a large number of developing countries had regained the momentum of broad and solid growth. However, despite sustained growth, economic performance varied widely among the least developed countries. The most vulnerable least developed countries and landlocked developing countries had suffered from the hike in oil prices and had limited access to external funding, further contributing to their vulnerability.

18. Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from major world markets, and high transit costs hampered the ability of landlocked developing countries to compete in the world trading system and presented major obstacles to their overall economic development. Their geographical situations also made landlocked developing countries unattractive to foreign investment and other financial flows. The landlocked developing countries were among the poorest developing countries, with the lowest growth rates and heavy debt burdens.

19. The Group of Landlocked Developing Countries therefore renewed its call for an enabling global environment that was conducive to development, as well as effective measures to stimulate growth and ensure the stability of the world economy, giving special attention to the unique and very difficult problems faced by landlocked developing countries in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, with particular regard to trade facilitation and market access for agricultural and non-agricultural goods. Particular attention should be given to products of special interest to the landlocked developing countries, as called for in the Almaty Programme of Action, the São Paolo Consensus and various General Assembly resolutions.

20. The landlocked developing countries should also be given sufficient financial and technical support by the donor community, without the imposition of harsh conditions and complex procedures. Priority should be given to the landlocked developing countries in the implementation of aid-for-trade initiatives by development partners, so that they could effectively participate in WTO negotiations on the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round. The Group called for an early resumption of the Doha negotiations, as well as increased assistance from the international community.

21. It was crucial for the landlocked developing countries to mainstream the Almaty Programme of Action agenda into national development strategies and programmes, improve or put in place the necessary implementation mechanisms, update domestic legal frameworks where necessary, and accede to the relevant international conventions on transit transport. They should also intensify mutual cooperation with their transit neighbours.

22. At their recent landmark summit in Havana, Cuba, the Heads of State or Government of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries had reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The Declaration adopted at the meeting had reaffirmed the right of landlocked developing countries to have access to and from the sea, reiterated their commitment to establishing genuine partnerships with their transit developing countries and development partners, and stressed the need to establish dialogue between Governments of landlocked developing countries and business communities. Most importantly, the participants had proposed that a midterm review should be conducted in 2008 to assess the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The Group appealed to the international community to lend the necessary support and assistance for the review.

23. Lastly, the Group wished to reiterate its request to the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to enhance its coordination and cooperation with United Nations agencies and other relevant international

organizations with a view to ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in line with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

24. *Mr. Barry (Senegal), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

25. **Mr. Lim** (Singapore) said that in her opening remarks, the Chairman had rightly identified globalization and interdependence as the overarching themes for the Committee's work. Globalization had provided opportunities for economic growth and efficiency and helped many countries enjoy higher standards of living. Many developing countries had doubled their ratio of trade to income, and many were now exporters of industrial products and services, as well as commodities and primary products.

26. However, not all had benefited equally from opportunities from globalization. Technology had brought the world closer but had also created a divide between those who could harness its benefits and those who could not easily do so. Although communications technology opened windows into other lands and cultures, it also accentuated perceptions of marginalization. Risk factors such as rising oil prices and the suspension of the Doha negotiations also threatened economic growth and overall development.

27. Clearly, the development agenda should remain a priority for the United Nations. The President of the General Assembly had rightly identified "Strengthening global partnership for development" as the key theme for the Assembly's sixty-first session, and it was important that developed countries should fulfil their commitments to implement the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, as well as other internationally agreed goals.

28. Expanding international commerce and negotiating reductions of trade barriers was one way to combat poverty. Although it might not be possible to achieve all the international community's goals under the Doha Development Round, it would be grossly irresponsible to allow the negotiations to collapse. It was essential to negotiate a broad-based and balanced package with clear benefits for developing and least developed countries. Open markets and liberalization based on a transparent, fair and inclusive multilateral trading system could give millions of people in least developed countries a better life, and agricultural reform was the critical factor.

29. Fostering greater intra and cross-regional cooperation could also support development. Noting that South-South trade accounted for over 40 per cent of global commerce, he encouraged developing countries to work together more closely to stimulate mutual trade. Singapore strongly supported increased South-South cooperation, and was strongly committed to sharing its own experiences and helping developing countries upgrade their national capacities and human resources.

30. The fight against poverty would not be won simply by adopting a series of resolutions. National policies must complement and support international efforts to meet development challenges against the backdrop of a fast-changing and complex globalized international environment. Strategies should be approached on the basis of pragmatism. There was no such thing as a "one-size-fits-all" model, because sustainable growth and development were often influenced by many different factors. Finding the right balance between rules and regulations in order to ensure economic stability and legal certainty, on the one hand, and the economic freedom necessary for innovation and growth, on the other, was key to the formulation of any development strategy. Good governance, the rule of law and a sound macroeconomic framework were essential components of any strategy to build resilient and competitive economies, while investment in training and education, protection of property rights and the creation of a level playing field would also help attract investment, create employment, stimulate innovation and generate growth. Such measures always involved taking very difficult decisions and managing vested interests, but they must be taken, for the sake of the millions of people who would be lifted out of poverty as a result.

31. **Mr. Manis** (Sudan) said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As a developing country neighbouring on four landlocked least developed countries, the Sudan also understood the concerns expressed by the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of landlocked least developed countries and expressed its solidarity with them.

32. The significance of the current general debate in the Second Committee lay in the fact that it came directly in the wake of several important developments. The suspension of the Doha Round

negotiations, first of all, emphasized anew the pressing need to re-examine the foundations of international economic cooperation in a way that safeguarded the rights of developing countries, for otherwise international trade could not play its desired development role.

33. Secondly, the High-level Meeting on the Least Developed Countries, held in September 2006 had concluded that, five years after the adoption of the Programme, the majority of least developed countries still suffered from poverty, hunger and disease. That called for a stronger commitment by those countries and their development partners to implementing the Programme of Action and required fulfilment of development partners' promises to provide the necessary funds through increased ODA and debt cancellation. The Cotonou Strategy was a useful way for the two sides to assess the progress made and identify and correct the weak points.

34. Thirdly, the long-awaited first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development signified global recognition of the development effects of migration. There was a need for a comprehensive treatment of those effects, transcending mere economic indicators to include cultural dimensions. His delegation looked forward to a constructive discussion of the agenda item, especially the aspects pertaining to follow-up of the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue.

35. Fourthly, his delegation hoped that current efforts towards the adoption of a resolution on the reform of the Economic and Social Council would meet with success, for that would enable the Council to carry out its assigned tasks efficiently and in line with efforts to reform the United Nations as a whole and with changes taking place internationally.

36. The major obstacle to the achievement of the goals agreed on at the conferences on sustainable development remained the mobilization of sources of financing. The widening gap between rich and poor could be narrowed only through a package of measures for increased flow of official assistance and foreign investment, comprehensive treatment of the debt problem, the opening of markets and productive capacity-building. Without foreign support, all the reform and other efforts of the developing countries would be for nought.

37. His delegation agreed with the Pakistani delegation's proposal that a matrix should be prepared to show the implementation of international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It should not be limited to implementation status, but focus also on obstacles to implementation.

38. The Sudan believed in the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation and regional economic integration, which had proven their effectiveness. Within the framework of regional organizations, joint projects were being planned with neighbouring States, relating to electrical grid interconnections, roads, facilitation of travel and freedom of movement and work. Such important cooperation, and especially the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), deserved encouragement and funding by the international community.

39. His country believed in the close connection between peace and development and had taken courageous steps to pave the way for sustainable development, including the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement in January 2005, which had brought an end to the longest war to occur on the African continent. A transition Constitution had been adopted that preserved the fundamental rights of citizens and laid solid foundations for equitable wealth distribution and power-sharing.

40. In May of the current year, the Sudan had signed the Darfur Peace Agreement and was assiduously seeking to bring the non-signatory parties into the Agreement. Despite the post-war challenges faced in the South, the Government had managed, through a series of economic reforms, to stabilize the economy, which had registered a rise of more than 8 per cent. It had also established a national anti-poverty plan with a focus on social security and women.

41. The principal obstacles the country faced in its efforts to rebuild, achieve development and meet its commitments under peace agreements while realizing the Millennium Development Goals stemmed from the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on the Sudan, the lack of external support and the debt burden. The elimination of debts would free up resources to ensure lasting peace. His country hoped the Second Committee would shed light on the concerns of countries emerging from conflicts, which faced unique challenges requiring special treatment on the part of the international community.

42. **Ms. Núñez Mordoche** (Cuba) said that the economic situation of the developing countries was deteriorating at an alarming rate and that the Millennium Development Goals had not been achieved, due to an unfavourable international economic environment and an unjust world order. The developing countries' external debt continued to grow and, in the case of the least developed countries, had reached unprecedented levels. The only solution was to cancel external debts unconditionally and develop mechanisms that guaranteed a sustained flow of financial resources under favourable conditions.

43. It was true that ODA had increased slightly but the increase was due largely to debt cancellation grants and emergency aid and the assistance was based on conditions. Another problem was that the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, were excluded from international markets. Coercive economic measures, unilateral sanctions and extraterritorial regulations, all of which violated the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, continued to hinder freedom of trade and investment. Cuba itself had long been the subject of an embargo by the world's main Power, which had had serious economic and social consequences for the Cuban people. Finally, natural disasters threatened the very existence of many countries, particularly the small island developing States.

44. Much of the developed world seemed to be unaware of the critical situation and showed little inclination to correct the structural inequalities of a trade system designed to benefit the richest nations. The suspension of the Doha Round was yet another example of rich countries placing their own interests ahead of cooperation and mutual benefit.

45. In conclusion, the only way to guarantee a true and just global association for development was to radically change the current world economic order, democratize the international financing institutions and strengthen the political will of the rich countries to fulfil their development commitments.

46. **Mr. Mahiga** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the items before the Committee were especially critical for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. During the past decade, the United Nations had adopted outcomes and established frameworks for the successful implementation of those goals; however, concerted action had not been taken, owing to a lack of political will. Fortunately, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and General Assembly resolution 60/265 had injected new impetus into the implementation process and had strengthened development partnerships.

47. The African continent had special needs and thus required special attention from the international community. Although domestic resources mobilization, ODA, FDI flows and debt relief had improved, Africa still lacked the required resources to achieve the Goals within the agreed time frame. His delegation therefore welcomed initiatives taken by development partners such as the Group of Eight and the European Union in accordance with the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

48. During the last two decades, many African countries had successfully undertaken reforms such as privatization and trade liberalization to help them reap the benefits of the global economic systems. Again, the international community needed to support their efforts and help develop a fair and better framework for international trade and finance.

49. The outcome of the Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, held in Hong Kong, had been disappointing and the Doha Round would not be concluded as scheduled. Clearly, WTO needed to be reformed so that poor and rich countries could participate equally in decision-making. Above all, the developed countries should realize that the current protectionist policies were counterproductive and that, in the long run, their prosperity depended on global prosperity.

50. His delegation regretted that negotiations on the resolution to strengthen the Council had not found support and called on all Committee members to exercise flexibility so that the resolution could be adopted. It was vital that the Economic and Social Council should be empowered to enforce the implementation of development issues and that it should enjoy the same power as other major United Nations bodies.

51. Finally, it was to be hoped that the newly appointed High-Level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment would discover practical ways for the United Nations to improve its synergies and performance. The Second Committee should be prepared to play its part in

bringing about the transformation needed to make the Organization more effective.

52. **Mr. Hamidon Ali** (Malaysia) said that, although the 2006 global economic situation had been positive thus far, the global economy continued to face challenges such as large global imbalances, the rapid cooling down of the housing market and resulting slowdown of the United States economy, high oil prices and high inflationary pressures leading to the tightening of monetary policies.

53. Malaysia was particularly concerned at increasing international inequality. Despite periods of improved economic performance, the incomes of the developing countries had fallen further behind those of the developed countries and since 1980, the world had witnessed a dual divergence process, in which an increasing income gap between the developed and developing world was paralleled by diverging growth among developing countries. The divergence was all the more worrisome because it was due mainly to growth failures in a large number of countries rather than a situation where global inequality was rising because some economies were growing faster than others.

54. Malaysia was deeply concerned at the impasse in the WTO negotiations and was of the opinion that, given the enormous disparities in income between the developed and developing world, developing countries could not possibly make concessions equal to or greater than those of the developed countries. For its part, Malaysia would continue to support multilateral trade negotiations and would maintain a pragmatic policy by combining liberalization with regulation, in accordance with the country's economic conditions and development needs.

55. Given the current global economic challenges, the role of the United Nations in economic and developmental issues should be strengthened. In that regard, Malaysia was fully supportive of the theme proposed by the President of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, namely "Implementing a global partnership for development". That partnership should be aimed at strengthening the role of the entire United Nations system in economic and developmental issues; ensuring the full implementation of the internationally agreed economic and development targets; and promoting greater cohesion among all actors, including the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO. The Economic and Social Council also needed to be empowered and strengthened in such a way so as to achieve those aims.

56. As for the Malaysian economy in particular, it was essential that the country should maintain a high volume of trade and that it should remain internationally competitive. The Government was striving to achieve developed country status by 2020 and had developed a national plan to that end. It was of utmost importance that the implementation of the plan should proceed as scheduled and that the country's implementation machinery should be responsive, effective and free of corruption. In that connection, the implementation of the National Integrity Plan and awareness-raising activities by the Malaysian Integrity Institute were aimed at increasing the accountability and trustworthiness of public officials.

57. **Mr. Hackett** (Barbados), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that progress on the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals must be made on a much broader front and faster pace than was presently the case. The Committee should focus on implementation and aim at bridging the gap between commitment and action.

58. Small States faced the challenges of economic and political uncertainty and lacked the financial dexterity and resilience to respond as swiftly and decisively as was often necessary. Mindful of the need to orient themselves towards integration into global economic systems, the members of CARICOM had embarked on the establishment of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

59. The single market had been inaugurated recently, and the single economy would become effective in 2008. In outlining the major priorities of the Caribbean Community, he expressed concern at the suspension of the Doha Round and called for the resumption of talks in order to ensure the full realization of the development dimension of the Doha Agenda Work Programme. The final outcome must include provisions that would assist developing countries in implementing policies aimed at transforming their economies. Small, vulnerable economies could receive special and differential treatment to facilitate their full integration into the multilateral trading system. Rather than being considered a concession or exception to trading rules, special and differential treatment should be construed

as a concept based on the development and policy needs of countries at differing levels of development, and should consist of a broad mix of provisions and programmes that recognized the characteristics of developing countries and the economic challenges posed by trade liberalization and globalization.

60. CARICOM fully supported "Aid for Trade", and was also of the view that the Committee should urge WTO member States to ensure that the Doha negotiations fulfilled its development promise and implemented the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

61. He stressed the need to focus on the debt burden of middle-income developing countries in a more comprehensive manner, since the high per capita income in those countries often masked the true impact of the debt burden on their populations. Enhancing the participation of developing countries in international dialogue and decision-making was a fundamental prerequisite to improving global economic governance. The debate on the reform of the international financial architecture should not be restricted to the Bretton Woods institutions, but should be placed prominently on the United Nations agenda. The complexities of a globalized world required radical reforms in global economic and financial governance to promote equitable development. CARICOM had noted the process on the reform of a quota formula and basic votes initiated by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group, and believed that such a process must be open and transparent, and should not have a negative impact on the voice and representation of small States in the Bretton Woods institutions.

62. In keeping with its commitment to the preservation of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development, CARICOM called for the full implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. He drew attention to the proposed resolution on the Caribbean Sea and said that, in recognition of the marine environment as a key resource that was central to the social and economic development of the region, CARICOM and other States members of the Association of Caribbean States were committed to achieving international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a "special area". He looked forward to the continued support of the international community in the implementation of that initiative.

63. With regard to climate change, he said that while small island developing States produced the least greenhouse gases and other ozone-depleting emissions, they were the countries hardest hit by the adverse effects of global climate change. Phenomena such as sea-level rise and fierce hurricanes threatened their economies and very existence. He urged United Nations Member States that had not yet ratified the Kyoto Protocol to do so without delay, and called on the entire international community to honour their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC), support the adaptation efforts of small island developing States, and to conclude negotiations on a post-Kyoto framework involving the parties to the Convention. In anticipation of future actions on climate change, he said thematic discussions should be balanced, comprehensive and held from the perspective of the three dimensions of sustainable development. Given their vulnerability to natural disasters, CARICOM member States supported the implementation of the Hyogo Declaration and Framework for Action. The special needs and unique circumstances of small island developing States must be taken into account in the formulation of disaster risk reduction measures, post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes.

64. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar) said that prevailing economic conditions posed a real threat to social and economic development, particularly among the least developed countries. He joined previous speakers in blaming the dire economic prospects of developing countries on meagre ODA flows, unjust terms of trade, market access restrictions and unfair pricing of commodity exports, and the debt burden.

65. The international community had made commitments in various forums to create a political, economic and social environment favourable to translating the right to development into reality, and to foster cohesion, social integration and opportunities for poverty eradication. Those commitments had been undertaken in a spirit of international cooperation, and with the firm resolve that globalization should be just and inclusive so that developing countries would not incur the risk of economic marginalization. Free trade, trade liberalization and interdependence had been acknowledged as the best means for securing equitable economic development. Against that backdrop, he

expressed concern at the critical state of negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda and the hope that all parties concerned would soon muster the political will and flexibility to resume negotiations.

66. World leaders had recognized that development, peace, security and human rights were all interdependent foundations of the United Nations system and that development was a central aim in itself. The 2005 World Summit Outcome addressed the need to promote feasibility and coherence in United Nations operational activities, and to strengthen links between normative actions and operational activities. That linkage called for greater authority and effectiveness within the Economic and Social Council in its endeavour to promote economic, social and environmental cooperation.

67. The credibility of United Nations development assistance lay in its universality, impartiality, multilateralism and responsiveness to the needs of developing countries. New funding mechanisms must be explored to ensure adequate and predictable funding for development.

68. The outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development represented the manifestation of the political will of the international community at the highest level. Qatar had sought to assert its position as a supportive partner of development efforts, especially in the fight against poverty and the equitable distribution of the benefits of growth. Apart from its commitment to the established development assistance target, 15 per cent of which was earmarked for assistance to the least developed countries. Qatar had launched an initiative to establish the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, and had donated 10 million dollars to the United Nations Fund for Democracy. In November, the Sixth International Conference for New or Restored Democracies would be held in Doha. His country had also offered to host the follow-up international conference on financing for development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

69. **Mr. Morant** (Observer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) said that the issue of sustainable development represented both an opportunity and challenge to the collective goodwill of nations, civil society and NGOs, among others. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) was committed to the effective management of natural resources to address poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. IUCN had submitted several recommendations, within the framework of United Nations consultations, for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of coherent environmental management under the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit.

70. IUCN had a number of ongoing projects, including recent initiatives on water and poverty reduction, forestry and fishing, and had actively participated in consultations on international environmental governance.

71. Extensive efforts had been made in improving fragile coastal ecosystems. In conjunction with the relevant United Nations bodies, IUCN had embarked on several initiatives to highlight the problems of current sustainable development processes and policies, and provided a platform of collaboration to support the restoration of tsunami-ravaged areas while promoting livelihoods. Furthermore, IUCN had lately provided leadership in biodiversity at the Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation Conference, which had issued a statement recognizing the importance of biodiversity in good stewardship of the planet. The organization wished to contribute to the consolidation of commitments made by world leaders, and to heightening recognition of the role of biodiversity in sustainable development and strengthening ties to civil society and the business community.

72. The United Nations must immediately rationalize its policies and processes for achieving environmental and conservation outcomes for the benefit of populations worldwide. Investments in environmental sustainability should be seen as an effective means for achieving development. The wealth of IUCN experience with ecosystems and poverty reduction strategies represented agents of change, and the organization was uniquely equipped to complement international efforts to secure a more sustainable future.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.